



Appropriations Committee, March 1, 2023

**HB 6659: Supporting Expansion of HUSKY/Medicaid in the State Budget
Funding Income & Asset Increases for HUSKY C for the Elderly & Disabled (HB
6630) & HUSKY for Immigrants (HB 6616)**

Greater Hartford Legal Aid (GHLA), Connecticut Legal Services (CLS), and New Haven Legal Assistance Association (NHLAA) submit this testimony in support of expansion of HUSKY/Medicaid in the State budget, by increasing the income and asset level for HUSKY C/Medicaid for elderly and disabled adults (HB 6630), and by expanding HUSKY eligibility to immigrant youth to age 26 (HB 6616). These worthy proposals require appropriations in the budget.

Legal services supports **HB 6630** (“An Act Increasing HUSKY C Asset and Income Limits”), which would increase the asset and income limit for HUSKY C/Medicaid for the elderly and disabled. This bill would match the HUSKY C income limit to that of HUSKY D, raising it from about 94% of the Federal Poverty Level to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level. It would increase the HUSKY C asset limits to match those of the MedConnect program, raising them from \$1600/\$2400 to \$10,000/\$15,000. This measure would eliminate unfairly restrictive income and asset limits on the elderly and disabled.

We also support **HB 6616** (“An Act Concerning Expansion of HUSKY Health Benefits to Those Ineligible Due to Immigration Status”) which expands HUSKY to undocumented youth up to age 26. Currently, undocumented children who are 13 or over are only eligible for Federal Emergency Medicaid benefits when they present to an emergency department with a life threatening condition. These emergency department visits would not be necessary if all residents had access to early and routine preventive care.

These critical HUSKY expansions require the support of this Committee.

Contacts: Giovanna Shay (GHLA) gshay@ghla.org; Sara Parker McKernan (NHLAA) sparkermckernan@nhlegal.org; Kristen Noelle Hatcher Miller (CLS) kmillerhatcher@ctlegal.org.